

REMARKS

The application has been amended in a manner believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-5 are amended. Support for the amendment to the claims can be found throughout the specification, and specifically page 3, line 10 through page 5, line 6 and page 10, lines 9-24. Claims 1-5 are currently pending in the present application.

The Official Action objected to claims 1-4 for having informalities. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's suggestions for amending the claims to overcome the objections. Applicants believe that claims 1-4 are amended in a manner consistent with the Examiner's suggestions, and thus respectfully request the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by CHEUNG. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

CHEUNG discloses a metal oxide-based treating agent. The metal aluminate catalyst support of CHEUNG includes a metal aluminate (metal AlO_4), a compound oxide of a metal oxide and an alumina, having a spinel structure. As defined in claims 1 and 10 of CHEUNG, the alumina is incorporated with a melted metal component to provide metal-incorporated alumina, and the metal-incorporated alumina is calcined to provide the metal aluminate

catalyst support. The calcination is carryout at a temperature in the range of from about 600°C to about 1350°C, a pressure in the range of from about 7 pounds per square inch absolute (psia) to about 750 psia, and a time period in the range of from about 1 hour to about 60 hours. As a result of the calcination, the metal-incorporated alumina decomposes to oxide to obtain a metal-oxide based treating agent.

Unlike CHEUNG, the present application does not obtain the treating agent by high temperature calcination. Rather, the claimed treating agent is obtained via drying at a temperature of 120°C (Examples), and, as a result, the treating agent is not metal-oxide based. The present specification (e.g. pages 3-5 and page 10, lines 9-24) describes the reaction of a metal-hydride exhaust gas with a non-metal oxide based treating agent of the claimed invention as advantageously less exothermic and higher in treatment capacity than a reaction with metal based oxide agents.

The claimed treating agent of claims 1-4 is non-metal oxide based and comprises a metal carbonate, basic metal carbonate or metal hydroxide, or mixtures thereof. Thus, the claimed treating agent is completely different from the metal oxide-based catalyst composition described in CHEUNG. As CHUENG is limited to metal oxide based catalysts, CHEUNG does not anticipate claims 1-4.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over CHEUNG. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Currently amended claim 5 is directed to a method of treating an exhaust gas by exposing a metal hydride containing exhaust gas to the non-oxide based treating agent of claim 1.

CHUENG fails disclose or suggest a non-metal oxide based treating agent as recited claim 1. The process of forming the catalyst of CHUENG, as discussed above, invariably results in a metal oxide treating agent. Thus, CHEUNG does not render claim 5 obvious.

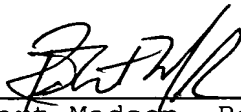
Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the obviousness rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

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